

## CLAIMS:

1           1. A method for mounting a tire to a wheel rim comprising the following  
2 steps:

3           a) Providing a wheel rim (1) having a predetermined wheel rim  
4 imbalance and having a specifically designed location (3) for  
5 accommodating a functional element (10, 11, 12), wherein the  
6 magnitude of imbalance of the wheel rim is within a predetermined  
7 tolerance range around a predetermined target value at a position of  
8 the wheel rim which lies opposite to the location (3) for  
9 accommodating a functional element (10, 11, 12);

10           b) providing a tire (2) having a predetermined tire imbalance, the  
11 tire having a tire marking such that the position and magnitude of the  
12 tire imbalance can be recognized from it;

13           c) providing a counterbalancing weight element (20, 21, 22) which  
14 is designed such that it can be attached at the location (3) for  
15 accommodating a functional element (10, 11, 12) and which is  
16 designed such that, after having been attached to the wheel rim (1) at  
17 the location (3) for accommodating a functional element (10, 11, 12)  
18 provides the wheel rim (1) in a ready-to-use condition with an  
19 imbalance of a magnitude, within a predetermined tolerance range,  
20 which corresponds to the imbalance of the tire (2);

21           d) attaching the counterbalancing weight element (20, 21, 22) at  
22 the location (3) for accommodating the functional element (10, 11, 12)  
23 and mounting the tire (2) to the wheel rim (1) in such a positional  
24 relation with respect to the wheel rim (1) that the position of the  
25 imbalance of the tire (2) lies opposite to the location (3) for  
26 accommodating a functional element (10, 11, 12) so that after  
27 mounting of the tire (2) to the wheel rim (1) the magnitude of  
28 imbalance of the wheel ready to be driven is below a predetermined  
29 threshold value.

1           2. The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the location (3)  
2 for accommodating a functional element (10, 11, 12) is the bore for accommodating  
3 a valve.

1       3. The method according to claim 2, characterized in that the  
2 counterbalancing weight element (20) is attached to the valve bore (3) via screwed  
3 fastening (30).

1       4. The method according to claim 3, characterized in that a hollow-core  
2 screw (30) is used to attach the counterbalancing weight element (20) to the valve  
3 bore (3).

1       5. The method according to claims 3 or 4, characterized in that the  
2 counterbalancing weight element (20) is screwed to the valve (10)

1       6. The method according to claim 2, characterized in that the  
2 counterbalancing weight element (22) is integrally attached to the valve (12).

1       7. The method according to claim 2, characterized in that the  
2 counterbalancing weight element (21) is attached to the valve bore (3) via a clip  
3 connection (31).

1       8. The method according to claim 7, characterized in that the clip  
2 connection for attaching the counterbalancing weight element to the valve bore also  
3 serves to fix the valve to the valve bore.

1       9. The method according to any of claims 2 to 8, characterized in that the  
2 fastening of the counterbalancing weight element to the valve bore is effected in  
3 functional unity with the fastening of a sensor element of a tire pressure monitoring  
4 system.

1       10. The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the location for  
2 accommodating a functional element is the location where a sensor element of a tire  
3 pressure monitoring system is attached.

1       11. The method according to claims 9 or 10, characterized in that the  
2 counterbalancing weight element is attached to the sensor element of the tire  
3 pressure monitoring system.

1       12. The method according to claim 11, characterized in that the  
2 counterbalancing weight element is integrally formed with the sensor element of the  
3 tire pressure monitoring system.

1                   13. The method according to claims 10 to 12, characterized in that the  
2 sensor element of the tire pressure monitoring system does not have a function and  
3 is designed as a dummy.

1                   14. The method according to claims 1 to 8, characterized in that the  
2 predetermined target value is selected such that the magnitude of the total  
3 imbalance of the wheel rim is zero if the valve is mounted in a ready for use  
4 condition.

1           15. The method according to any of claims 1 to 14, characterized in that  
2 the predetermined target value is selected such that the magnitude of the total  
3 imbalance of the wheel rim is zero if the valve and the sensor of the tire pressure  
4 monitoring system are mounted in a ready-to-use condition.

1           16. The method according to claims 1 to 15, characterized in that the  
2 predetermined tolerance range around the target value is  $\leq \pm 10$  g, preferably  $\leq \pm 5$   
3 g and most preferably  $\leq \pm 2$  g.

1           17. The method according to any of claims 1 to 16, characterized in that  
2       the predetermined threshold value is  $\leq \pm 10$  g.

1                   18. The method according to claim 17, characterized in that the  
2 predetermined threshold value is  $\leq 5$  g.

1                   19. The method according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in  
2                   that the bore (3) for accommodating a valve (10, 11, 12) is provided in the wheel rim  
3                   hump.

1                   20. A counterbalancing weight element to be attached to a wheel rim  
2 having a location (3) for accommodating a functional element (10, 11, 12) wherein  
3 due to the counterbalancing weight element (20, 21, 22) after mounting a tire (2) to  
4 the wheel rim (1) the imbalance of a wheel ready to use has a magnitude below a  
5 predetermined threshold value.

6 characterized in that

7 said counterbalancing weight element is adapted to be mounted at the  
8 location (3) for accommodating a functional element (10, 11, 12).

1           21. The counterbalancing weight element (20, 21, 22) according to claim  
2 20, characterized in that the location (3) for accommodating a functional element  
3 (10, 11, 12) is the bore for accommodating a valve.

1           22. The counterbalancing weight element (20) according to claim 21,  
2 characterized in that it is adapted to be attached to the valve bore (3) via screwed  
3 fastening (30).

1           23. The counterbalancing weight element (20) according to claim 22,  
2 characterized in that it is adapted to be attached to the valve bore (3) via a hollow-  
3 core screw (30).

1           24. The counterbalancing weight element (20) according to claim 22 or 23,  
2 characterized in that it is adapted to be screwed to a valve (10) inserted in the valve  
3 bore (3).

1           25. The counterbalancing weight element (22) according to claim 21,  
2 characterized in that it is integrally formed at a valve (12) being adapted to be  
3 inserted in the valve bore.

1           26. The counterbalancing weight element (21) according to claim 21,  
2 characterized in that it is adapted to be fastened to the valve bore (3) via a clip  
3 connection (31).

1           27. The counterbalancing weight element according to claim 26,  
2 characterized in that the clip connection for fastening the counterbalancing weight  
3 element to the valve bore also serves to fix the valve in the valve bore.

1           28. The counterbalancing weight element according to any of claims 21 to  
2 27, characterized in that it is adapted to be attached to the valve bore in functional  
3 unity with the fastening of a sensor element of a tire pressure monitoring system.

1           29. The counterbalancing weight element according to claim 20,  
2 characterized in that the location for accommodating a functional element is the area  
3 where a sensor element of a tire pressure monitoring system is attached.

1           30. The counterbalancing weight element according to claims 28 or 29,  
2 characterized in that it is adapted to be attached to the sensor element of a tire  
3 pressure monitoring system.

1        31. The counterbalancing weight element according to claim 30,  
2 characterized in that it is formed integrally with the sensor element of a tire pressure  
3 monitoring system.

1        32. The counterbalancing weight element according to any of claims 28 to  
2 31, characterized in that the sensor element of the tire pressure monitoring system  
3 has no function and is designed as a dummy.